

# **William A. Hamzy**

## *Biography*

State Representative William A. Hamzy takes pride in his service to the people of Bristol and Plymouth and in his legislative achievements.

Recognized for his leadership abilities, Representative Hamzy was chosen by House Minority Leader Robert M. Ward, R-Northford, to serve as an Assistant Minority Leader for the 2003 and 2004 legislative sessions. He was reappointed as an Assistant Minority Leader for the 2005 – 2006 legislative sessions.

As an assistant leader, Representative Hamzy helps organize rank and file members of the House Republican caucus; helps ensure good communication between the House Republican leadership and the members; helps keep the leadership abreast of the concerns and legislative goals of individual caucus members; and helps familiarize new members with House rules and procedures.

During the 2004 legislative session, Representative Hamzy was appointed to the Select Committee of Inquiry, which investigated allegations concerning former Governor Rowland's acceptance of expensive gifts from state employees and from people who do business with the state. The committee was considering a possible impeachment recommendation at the time the governor resigned.

Representative Hamzy previously served as the House Ranking Member (Republican Leader) on the General Assembly's Insurance and Real Estate Committee (1999 – 2000) and as the House Ranking Member on the Government Administration and Elections Committee (2001 – 2002).

Representative Hamzy also served as House Ranking Member on the Select Committee on Aging during his second term (1997 - 1998). Most legislators are not selected for leadership positions until their third terms. He is a former member of the Transportation and Public Safety committees.

He currently serves on the Judiciary and Insurance and Real Estate committees and on the Select Committee on Aging.

Representative Hamzy also helped secure a variety of state grants for Bristol and Plymouth projects during the 2003 and 2004 legislative sessions. Among them were:

- A \$150,000 state grant for Plymouth to help pay for the replacement of sidewalks on Main Street and to develop a park setting for the historic water wheel displayed on Route 6 in Terryville.
- A \$100,000 grant for the American Clock and Watch Museum in Bristol to help pay for acquisition of a house next door on Woodland Street and adaptation work on the building to make it more suitable for museum purposes.

- A \$500,000 grant to replenish the Central Connecticut Revolving Loan Fund. Mid-sized businesses that want to open or expand in the Central Connecticut Planning Region (which includes Bristol and Plymouth) can obtain low-cost financing through the fund. Representative Hamzy worked with officials from the state Department of Economic and Community Development for more than a year to gain their support for a grant to revitalize this program.
- A \$1.5 million grant for the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, Inc. to help finance construction of a 12,134 sq. ft. education building at its Indian Rock Nature Preserve.

In 2003, Representative Hamzy helped the Bristol Historical Society secure an extension in which to file for its state property tax exemption as a non-profit organization. Representative Hamzy and other local legislators succeeded in getting the extension the historical society needed for its tax exemption included in a budget implementation bill approved by the General Assembly.

In 2004, Representative Hamzy helped gain a commitment from the governor to support \$45 million in state funding for Bristol's downtown revitalization project.

He also initiated a law (Public Act 04-117) that established a procedure for the timely resolution of complaints or challenges to local referendums. Under the act, challenges to the conduct or outcome of a local referendum have to be filed within 30 days, thus avoiding situations like the delay in approving funding for the construction of the high school that occurred a few years ago in Plymouth.

In addition, Representative Hamzy cosponsored legislation (P. A. 04-156) that enabled the Connecticut Water Company to donate land to Plymouth where the high school was to be constructed, saving the town about \$500,000.

Grants secured for the 78th District during the 2001 and 2002 legislative sessions included:

- A \$2 million grant for Bristol to help fund its downtown renovation project.
- A grant totaling \$825,000 to help pay for completion of the Plymouth Industrial Park, Phase III. The project will create hundreds of new jobs, increase the tax base and make the town a more attractive place to live, work and raise families.
- Funding totaling \$1,625,000 for the realignment of Route 6 at Scott and Seymour roads; funds totaling \$2,500,000 for the reconstruction of Canal Street, including a new bridge over the Pequabuck River and a new rail crossing; and \$500,000 for rehabilitation of the bridge on Route 72 over the Poland River, all in Plymouth.
- Improvements to and expansion of athletic fields at the Harry S. Fisher School in Plymouth, \$200,000.

Representative Hamzy co-sponsored or supported several laws of importance to veterans during the 2000, 2001 and 2002 sessions. They include:

- A law exempting certain resident wartime veterans from having to pay fees to obtain town hawker and peddler permits. The law also requires that military discharge documents filed by veterans with public agencies be kept separate from their other records and remain confidential for 75 years.
- A measure that allows local boards of education to award high school diplomas to World War II veterans who did not receive them because they left high school to serve in our country's armed forces.
- An act adding veterans who served in time of war and received service-connected traumatic brain injuries to the list of individuals eligible to register their vehicles without paying a fee.

T. B. I. afflicted veterans also receive free special license plates and identification cards under the law.

Representative Hamzy was selected by his colleagues in the state House of Representatives as one of seven legislators who show "the best promise for the future" in a poll conducted in 1998 by Connecticut Magazine,

Representative Hamzy was elected to his first term in the state House of Representatives Nov. 8, 1994. He was re-elected in 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2004.

Nationally, Representative Hamzy is a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Information Technology and Telecommunications Task Force.

He is a 1984 graduate of Terryville High School. He received a B.A. in political science from the University of Connecticut in 1988. He received his J.D. in 1992 from Franklin Pierce Law Center in Concord, N. H. He is a partner with the law firm Hamzy & Conlin of Bristol.

Representative Hamzy continues to serve on local panels and is actively involved in community affairs.

He is a member of the Plymouth Republican Town Committee (1992-present) and is a past town committee secretary. Representative Hamzy is a member of the Terryville Fire Department's Deferred Compensation Board and a former member of the Plymouth Board of Fire Commissioners.

Representative Hamzy is a member of the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce and the Terryville Polish-American Political Club. He is a former member of the Terryville Rotary Club and the West Central Connecticut United Way Board of Directors.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Bristol Bar Association and the Connecticut Bar Association.

He is a member of the Bristol Federal Hill Association; the Friends of the Terryville Public library and the Friends of the Bristol Public Library.

Representative Hamzy is a former Bidy Basketball coach. He also coached Babe Ruth baseball for 12 years. He was a member of the 1983 Terryville High School state championship basketball team. He was co-captain of the 1984 state championship team.

He and his wife Anita live in Terryville. They are the proud parents of a son, Zachary William, and a daughter, Gabriella.